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4 April 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Desirability of an Informal Discussion in Tomorrow's USIB Meeting Respecting the [redacted] Study on a New Method of Soviet Deployment of ICBMs

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation in paragraph 5.

2. You are, I believe, familiar with the recent [redacted] study on ICBM "reprogramming." This, as you will recall, is a technique whereby the USSR could reduce its theoretical requirements for ICBMs to attack soft targets such as air bases.

3. Partly as a result of the [redacted] study, we have included in the Terms of Reference of the forthcoming NIE 11-8-60 a reanalysis of Soviet ballistic missile requirements. In the reanalysis, which is to be done by CIA in consultation with the USIB representatives, we will examine the effect of "reprogramming" as well as other factors. For this purpose, we have accepted [redacted]'s informal offer to lend us a few days of analytical assistance and some time on their computer.

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4. The terms of reference for NIE 11-3 were approved by the USIB representatives on 30 March. At this meeting we did not bring up for discussion the WSAG study feeling that USIB principals should be queried as to (1) their knowledge of the study, and (2) their sentiments with respect to using the WSAG methodology (or variants thereon) in the 11-3 paper. By tomorrow all of the intelligence chiefs who have the biggest stake in 11-3 (State, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Joint Staff) will know of the study in question.

5. Recommendation: That, perhaps in executive session, you raise the desirability of using aspects of the WSAG methodology in the 11-3 paper. General Lemnitzer and Mr. Gleason will be present to fill the Board members in.

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

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